

**New Shoreham Town Council Meeting
Town Hall, Old Town Road
Wednesday, March 1, 2010
7:00 p.m.**

Present: First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Raymond J. Torrey, Council members Richard P. Martin, Peter B. Baute and Kenneth C. Lacoste. Also present were Town Manager Nancy Dodge, Finance Director Amy Land and for the recording of minutes, Deputy Town Clerk Millicent McGinnes.

First Warden Gaffett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Warden's Report

First Warden Gaffett reported the following:

- The Census Bureau is looking for part-time workers for the spring 2010 census. They will be hiring a total of 37 workers.
- Community Development Block Grant applications are due March 9, 2010.
- The first of the Ocean in Motion lecture series regarding the Ocean SAMP will be held on March 4, 2010 at the Audubon Society in Bristol.
- The first budget hearing will be March 3, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.
- The PUC will be holding hearings on the mainland regarding Docket # 411 (Deep Water Wind project) on the mainland and the meetings will be televised live through the polycom unit at the school. The related March meeting scheduled on Block Island has been cancelled.
- Senator Sosnowski and Representative Walsh will be here on March 26, 2010 for a meeting.
- The Town Council has been invited to participate in Newport's St. Patrick's Day parade.

Public Input

From the audience, Bruce Montgomery asked how much money has been donated to restoring the headstones in the cemetery that were damaged by vandalism. Ms. Dodge noted that \$3,500 has been received so far and Shawn Monument Company should begin work on March 4, 2010, depending on the weather.

From the audience, Chris Warfel stated that he would like to have a copy of the agenda for the upcoming joint Town Council / Shellfish Commission meeting.

Act on New Shoreham Shellfish Commission Letter re: Salt Water Fishing Licenses

The state has created a salt water fishing license for issuance to all salt water fishermen. A letter was received from the Shellfish Commission recommending the use of the state's license for those fishing in the Great Salt Pond. Ms. Gaffett explained that the Great Salt Pond is Town owned and controlled and she wants to make sure that the Town's authority is protected. It was noted that the creation, administration and enforcement of a Town license for the Pond is onerous.

Ms. Gaffett made a motion to adopt a policy that, in lieu of a Town salt water fishing license, the Town honor the state salt water fishing license in the Great Salt Pond and seek legal advice as to how to appropriately implement.

5 Ayes (Gaffett, Torrey, Lacoste, Martin, Baute) 0 Nays

Act on New Shoreham Shellfish Commission letter re: BI Commercial Shellfish License Application

Mr. Martin made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Shellfish Commission and grant a resident Commercial Shellfish license to Eric Gustafson. Mr. Torrey seconded the motion and it carried.

5 Ayes (Gaffett, Torrey, Lacoste, Martin, Baute) 0 Nays

Board, Committee and Commission Appointments

Harbors Committee

It was noted that the Harbors Committee forwarded three names of potential people to fill the vacancy on the Harbors Committee: Mike Ballard, Robert Gilpin, Sr. and Michael

Ernst. It was noted that Mike Ballard could potentially have a conflict as he is the Town's CRMC representative. It was further noted that Michael Ernst has a boat in Old Harbor and as the Committee will be working on dock policies, he may have a potential conflict.

Mr. Lacoste made a motion to appoint Robert Gilpin, Sr. to an alternate position on the Harbors Committee, expiring December 2010. Mr. Torrey seconded and the motion carried.

5 Ayes (Gaffett, Torrey, Lacoste, Martin, Baute) 0 Nays

Harbormaster Review Committee

It was noted that in addition to a representative from the Town Council, the Harbors Committee and the Shellfish Commission which was previously discussed, there were four others who expressed interest in serving on the Harbormaster Review Committee: Chris Littlefield, Ed Northup, Walter Filkins and Sandra Finizia.

Following discussion, Ms. Gaffett made a motion to form a Harbormaster Review Committee consisting of the following members: Town Council representative Ken Lacoste, Shellfish Commission representative Peter Voskamp, Harbors Committee representative Pete Tweedy, Chris Littlefield and Walter Filkins. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martin and carried.

5 Ayes (Gaffett, Torrey, Lacoste, Martin, Baute) 0 Nays

Island Energy Plan Committee

Ms. Gaffett made a motion to appoint Scott Comings to the Island Energy Plan Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martin and carried.

5 Ayes (Gaffett, Torrey, Lacoste, Martin, Baute) 0 Nays

Ms. Gaffett noted that John Warfel has expressed interest in serving on the IEPC if another member is sought.

Juvenile Hearing Board

Mr. Lacoste made a motion to appoint Peter Gibbons to the Juvenile Hearing Board with term expiring December 2012. Ms. Gaffett seconded the motion and it carried.

5 Ayes (Gaffett, Torrey, Lacoste, Martin, Baute) 0 Nays

Update on the Old Harbor Dock Project

Ms. Dodge reported the following regarding the Old Harbor Dock project:

- The site assessment is complete and the removal of the contaminated soil is awaiting approval from the DEM.
- An addendum to the agreement with Narragansett Dock Works is being finalized which will include payment for some supplies for the postponed renovation.
- A plan is in the works to get the dock into condition to open for the summer season.

Act on Resolution re: National Incident Management System

Town Manager Dodge explained that the National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a standardized radio language for use between multiple police/fire/rescue departments nationwide. Police Officer Harrison has had training and completed NIMS level 1 and level 2. She noted that the adoption of the protocol was required for some grants.

Ms. Gaffett made a motion to adopt the resolution regarding National Incident Management System protocol. Mr. Martin seconded the motion and it carried.

5 Ayes (Gaffett, Torrey, Lacoste, Martin, Baute) 0 Nays

Receive Town of New Shoreham Fiscal Year 2011 Proposed Budget

Town Manager Dodge and Finance Director Lewis presented the Fiscal Year 2011 draft budget and highlighted the following points:

- The Governor has stated that he will not give out the 3rd and 4th quarter vehicle taxes in lieu this year. The legislature may or may not ratify the action.
- The legislature is looking at a school funding formula with a per pupil cost.
- There is a 3% salary increase for all staff members.

- A 7.8% increase in healthcare benefits and a 5% increase in dental insurance is included.
- There was a \$70,000 savings from the change in the healthcare benefit package last year.
- Department heads were asked to submit level funded budgets.
- The Administration department is up because the new alarm system is included.
- The Police department is up because of a cost for housing at the Seaside Market.
- Overall the budget has a 1% increase, with the total budget being \$10,934,869.
- The Capital budget is one percent of the entire budget. The \$100,000 budget represents a 39% increase over last year.
- Interest income is down considerably, as interest rates are very low.
- \$77,000 of revenue sharing from the state has been eliminated.
- The tax collection numbers are staying strong.
- A tax sale is being planned for 2011.
- The State road agreement provides a 4% increase.
- This budget does not include the use of the reserve fund to balance the budget.
- The requested recreation assistant has not been funded.
- The request for lifeguard salary increases has been half funded.
- The GIS/Technology department has a 12% increase, mostly for license and maintenance contracts. A breakdown will be provided at the budget hearing.
- The North Light will be opening this summer, therefore the Boards/Commissions department shows an increase representing North Light wages.
- Under Community Support, the Fire/Rescue Department and the Early Learning Center were decreased \$10,000 each from last year.
- The Senior Citizens Advisory Committee requested a part time coordinator which was funded at \$1,000.
- The school has requested an increase of 2.68% over last year's budget. The budget only includes a 0.31% increase, reduced a total of \$100,000. The school has a reserve fund of \$130,000.
- There is a 1% decrease in the debt service. The purchase of Plat 6, Lot 147 is not included.

Dr. Baute questioned if there is a wage freeze for union employees, will it be matched by a non-union employee wage freeze.

The Council thanked Town Manager Dodge and Finance Director Lewis for there hard fastidious work.

Approval of Minutes: February 17, 2010

Ms. Gaffett made a motion to approve the minutes of February 17, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martin and carried.

5 Ayes (Gaffett, Torrey, Lacoste, Martin, Baute) 0 Nays

Correspondence: Interstate Navigation Regarding Exogenous Events

It was noted that Interstate Navigation is alerting the Town and the PUC about possible unexpected expenses: repairs on the Point Judith dock and possible recertification of the vessels required by amended Coast Guard regulations. The correspondence was received and filed.

Review Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Ms. Gaffett reviewed the meeting schedule as follows:

- March 4, 2010 Budget Hearing
- March 17, 2010 Regular Meeting
- March 22, 2010 Joint meeting with Shellfish Commission
- March 26, 2010 Meeting with Senator Sosnowski and Representative Walsh

With no further business Dr. Baute made a motion to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lacoste and carried unanimously.

Millicent McGinnes, Deputy Town Clerk

Submitted: March 9, 2010

Approved: March 17, 2010